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**45**

## President's Message

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2019-2021

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Hello everybody:

How are you? As I write these lines, this confinement hit the eight weeks mark for most of us. Did you know or imagine we could all be this resilient? Most of us are still smiling, at least in public. My husband and I had to drive south to Barrie ON this week for a medical appointment, 14 hours of driving ((return) for a 70-minute meeting. One of the joys of living in the north!

Everything went ok, from packing up plates and utensils to shopping local groceries for in-room microwaved dinners, until on our way back we ended up eating Tim's chili on our lap in the car. That was a new experience for me, one that I do not care to repeat!

Welcome to our newest member, May-Jean Powers, from Ajax ON. I hope that you will enjoy our publication and that we'll meet at one of our future meetings May-Jean.

In this issue, you will find a variety of articles, including a another take on MacKnight woods, previously featured in May; memories on a then well known numismatist and woods collector, Jerry H Remick; an exposé on research stemming from a Erhardt Holdings Ltd. wood and another Chips from the woodpile chronicle.

Did you find a wood that you had forgotten, or discovered a new one? Please write us a line or two about it. We will be happy to share with our fellow members through this publication.

Stay safe

France

**P.S. We just learned of the cancellation of the RCNA 2020 Convention. Please see page 8 for details concerning CAWMC AGM.**

## MacKnight

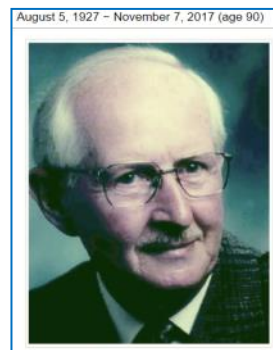
Featured Wood of the Month of June 2020



Norm Belsten gave Ross Kingdon 100 of each of these two MacKnight Motors woods (shown here) that he acquired when he bought someone's collection from New Brunswick. One was featured as a wood of the month of May 2020.

MacKnight Motors Used Cars & Body Shop (MacKnight Motors Ltd.) was owned and operated by Alden MacKnight, who was known as "The Car Man" and "The Body Man" in Saint John, New Brunswick.

Please see May 2020 issue of Timber Talk for complete story behind these woods. And read ahead for another interesting take on MacKnight Woods



### *More on MacKnight Woods*

In last month's Timber Talk, the two Saint John, N.B. MacKnight woods were highlighted as the free woods for the months of May and June and a write-up from Judy Blackman accompanied the two woods that were shown. Those two woods are listed in our 'wood' catalogue as 3750 - 009 (The Car Man ) and 3750 - 010 (The Body Man ), both issued in 1966 with 1000 of each made.

Recently, being stuck at home because of this virus, I took the opportunity to read a booklet, given to me some time ago, by John Regitko. This booklet was published by the late Norm Wells who is well known for his large and comprehensive catalogue listing of Canadian woods (with pictures ) entitled 'Canadian Wooden Money, Tokens and Souvenirs ' published back in the late '70's and early '80's.

This booklet, entitled 'Wood Chips from the Wood Pile of the late J. Douglas Ferguson ', was put out by Norm Wells in March of 1986. It is basically a series of word-for-word personal letters written back and forth, over the years 1975 to the late '80's, between Norm Wells and Doug Ferguson. The two were the best of friends and avid wood collectors.

As you read this booklet, you soon realize that Norm must have conscientiously kept a copy of every letter he wrote to Doug as well as Doug's return letters to him. Our Paul Johnson has confirmed this as he says, that, years ago, he saw them in a filing cabinet at Norm's home while visiting.

Perusing these letters makes for some remarkably interesting reading.

Now, why am I writing this? Part way through this booklet, in a letter (dated Feb. 1986) by Norm to Doug, these two MacKnight woods are mentioned. Read on...

## ***More on MacKnight /cont/d***

Norm Wells writes " *I had a letter from Alton Eisner - he and the Club Secretary made up the new 1979 St John Club Woods, 88 in blue same as other issues, then 15 in Red (Stamp Pad Ink). The Blues are 2 for \$1.00 and the 15 Red, they will auction off at their club meetings, these are going for \$5.00 each.*

*Another wood they made are - SPECIALS - They had some MacKnight woods with blank side, so they put their CLUB STAMP OBVERSE on the blank sides. And these also are \$5.00 each, only 14 were made. Alton is holding 2 of each for me."*

(Only one of these SPECIALS woods, mentioned by Norm in this letter, is shown in our current catalogue. It is shown as # 3750 - 012, RED/BLUE , The Car Man reverse, 14 made and rated as an R - 4. A picture of it is shown here.)

Note that Norm said, "*Alton is holding two of each for me.*" Were there also 14 of a Blue/Blue made?

Doug's reply to this information from Norm comes in a letter back to Norm dated May 1980. Doug says: "*The recent issues of Eisner's of Saint John have been upsetting. I wonder if those in the Club's name were authorized by the club? Ethics would at least have called for only one color, or a reasonable number of both colors - also the one using the 'Loyalist City' and 'MacKnight on other side - made in such small numbers looks like a "RIP OFF". I have them - but - I am wondering if the time isn't coming when the CAWMC - should authorize you, Norm, to determine ( with the help of a couple other members ) if a doubtful issue of this type should be listed?"*

Note that in Doug's letter he says, "*I have them.*" Makes one think that possibly there were some other Blue/Blue varieties made to also sell for \$5.00 each. No such wood, however, is shown in our current catalogue or in Norm Well's old catalogue.

Even back in those early days of CAWMC you get the sense that collectors had their concerns about the many varieties and errors surfacing. There are many varieties of some woods listed in our catalogue. Collectors must decide whether they want them in their collection or not.

## ***Ross Kingdon***



*From Editor: What an interesting article! As a collector I am very fond on my ( sometimes presumed) low issue woods, whether or not they are catalogued. But I also understand that a logo or other image related to a club or to a specific collector should never be used without consent of the owner of said image, being a club or an individual. So, when a "back door" or unauthorized wood appears, should it be listed? The woods catalogue our members are using is privately owned, so the question is rhetorical. What about the ethics of it all? What do you think?*

*Your opinion matters. Write to me at [france@waychison.com](mailto:france@waychison.com) or P.O. Box 466 Timmins ON P4N 7E3. Thank you*



*This article, was written by Yvon Marquis, RCNA's Past-President, and published in the March 2020 issue of Le Numismate, publication of L'Association des Numismates Francophones du Canada. The editor, a personal friend of Jerry, translated the article and added a comment here and there. You will note that Jerry wrote his name with accents, given that he worked and lived in french most of his life.*

## PORTTRAITS on WOODS

### Jérôme H. Remick 1928 - 2005

Jérôme (Jerry) H. Remick, one of Canada's greatest numismatists, passed away on March 5, 2005, at the age of 76. Many have had the opportunity to rub shoulders with Jérôme, who was, among other things, a well known participant to annual RCNA conventions.



Born September 11, 1928 in Detroit (Michigan, US) where he studied geology, Jérôme settled in Quebec City in 1957 and worked as a geologist for the provincial government. He had a remarkable career in this field, producing several works of references. Each year the Association of Geologists of Canada remits an award bearing his name.

Jérôme first became interested in stamps and then numismatics when his grandmother gave him a 50 ¢ coin from Newfoundland. Jerry always said that the story surrounding the pieces was what interested him most. He was member of several coin clubs and Societes worldwide. Jerry collaborated on many numismatic catalogs still in use today. He was a regular columnist for the *Canadian Coin News* and collaborated to several other publications. He was involved in the issuance of personalized medals, often producing matrices at his own expense, allowing many collectors to issue their own medal. In 1984, Jerry founded the Association of Issuers of Personalized Medals, which had a hundred members until 1995, year of dissolution. Remick himself issued over 600 medals (including the various finishes). Each year, the RCNA gives the Jérôme H. Remick Literary Award to the author of the best article published in a local coin club newsletter.

He was a facilitator for several young people who were just starting out and who wished to be actively involved in the field of numismatics. I am one of those who have benefited from these contacts and references. (From editor: so is my husband William, who also worked with Jerry on geological projects)

Following his death, Jerry's coin collection was put up for auction in London by Maison Spink and the sale raised \$ 3.4 million, which surprised many because Jerry never exhibited any exterior sign of wealth. Shown are 2 of a few portraits used by Jerry for his woods. See 4765-022, 028,034 and 067

(From editor: most of us remember his mismatched plaid clothing and socks! Jerry was an unassuming gentleman, still missed and talked about among his friends. By the way, the "H" in Jérôme H Remick stands for Hosmer.)



4765-067 Christmas 1989



Commemorative medal



4765-028 Christmas 1987

## Erhardt Holdings

by **Judy Blackman**, CAWMC Life Member, FONA, KStE  
Collaboration: **Al Munro**, CAWMC Life Member



This 38 mm round 1975 wood (7160-001) is black ink on both sides, has a rarity rating of 2, and there were 1,000 produced. The obverse reads “OLD FASHIONED WOODEN NICKEL” and the reverse reads “IMPERIAL OIL LTD. BULK SALES & SERVICE” around the outside, and the inside reads “ERHARDT HOLDINGS LTD. Phone 493-2352 Delisle, Sask. Small printing to the right of the car reads “Made in USA”. Signage on the car is illegible but might say “Imperial Oil”. A notation, by Cec Tannahill, in Norm Well’s 1979 catalogue states “Wilf Erhardt issued these woods in Nov. 1975 as a sales promotion”.

According to cemetery records in Delisle, Saskatchewan; Arnold Wilford Erhardt passed away on January 13, 2001 at the age of 70 and is buried in the Delisle cemetery. He left a wife, a daughter, a grandchild and a great-grand-child.

Next let’s cover a bit of Imperial’s history. Canada, as a country, was only 13 years old when the Imperial Oil Company (Esso) was formed by 16 oil refiners in southwestern-Ontario. As Canada has grown, Imperial has grown with it, sharing its prosperity and weathering the tough times. In 1907 Imperial opened Canada’s first service station in Vancouver, B.C. In 1920 Imperial discovered oil at Fort Norman (now Norman Wells), N.W.T., on the Mackenzie River. In 1947 Imperial discovers oil at Leduc, marking the beginning of Western Canada’s great oil development. In 1949 Imperial and others from the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company build a pipeline from Edmonton, Alberta, to Superior, Wisconsin. In 1975 Imperial’s Strathcona refinery is built to replace older refineries in Edmonton, Regina, Winnipeg and Calgary. In 1989 Imperial purchased Texaco Canada Ltd.; it is the second largest corporate acquisition in the nation’s history.

Now let’s see what else a historian can share. The Town of Delisle’s history was taken from records of Delisle Historian Marjorie Bentley and compiled by her daughter-in-law Shirley Bentley: (a few excerpts are below)

*In the years 1923-1926 Model T Ford Cars were shipped unassembled by rail in box cars. The Delisle elevator agents, who were not busy as all the roads were blocked by snow, would unload cars and assemble them to be put up for sale in the spring.*

*Natural Gas was turned on in Delisle on September 10, 1953. Mercury vapor lights were in-stalled between 1956 and 1959. Around the 1930’s SPC ( Saskatchewan Power Corporation) provided electricity for the town.*



## Erhardt Holdings *Continued*

- Bill Green sold Cockshut equipment, Mayrath grain loaders and operated a B.A. bulk service, delivering barrels of fuel, then with large tanks to farm yard tanks. The Imperial Oil Bulk Service was operated by Len Funk in the 1950's and then Louis Wood was agent but the Imperial Bulk Oil Service was no longer in operation.

Some interesting points above, but do they help us? They lead us to believe there was no longer a Bulk Oil Service in Delisle in operation in the 1970's. I did confirm the bulk service for Saskatchewan was centralized, and indeed no longer had a hub in Delisle. So now what?

It would appear the owners of Erhardt Holdings Ltd. likely did not operate an oil and gas bulk service.. So, where to go from here? Let's think about farming and let's try something else, "fertilizer". According to the Directory *FERTILIZER PLANTS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1992 (INCLUDING CANADA)*, Delisle has three businesses and one includes ESSO AGENT—SCRIBNER'S IMP. OIL and guess what. The phone number matches the number on the wood! Hooray, finally something real and concrete to go on! So back to gravestones and obituaries we go! Gordon Allan Scribner (1937-2009) was born in Kindersley, Saskatchewan, (which is 1½ hours from Delisle) to parents Cory Scribner and Margaret Scribner (nee Bruce). In 1974, they became proprietors of the bulk fuel and fertilizer depot in Frobisher, Saskatchewan and moved the family there where they spent the next seven years. In July of 1981, Gordon and Rose transferred to Delisle and ran the Esso operation up until 1989.

It therefore appears that Wilf Eberhardt operated a fertilizer bulk service in Delisle and sold out to Gordon Scribner in 1981 who changed the name but kept the original phone number.





## *Chips from the Woodpile ....*

*By Dave Gillespie*

*The August 1979 newsletter provided Vic Hall's Presidential farewell message and Don Robb took over the helm as incoming President. Don Robb also announced that Garry Braunwarth was stepping back and putting away his typewriter for a period making room for Stan Clute who had accepted Editorship of Timber Talk.*

*In the October, Norman Wells wrote an article about the "Mutual Arena" wood (catalogue # 5900-042) as it had come to light. It was issued in 1969 and was handed out at special events like spot dances and some were tossed on the roller skating floor. If a skater was lucky enough to retrieve one it could be used at the Terrace snack bar for a free hamburger.*

*In a later issue that year, it was reported that Canada's "Mr. Wooden Nickel" was none other than Norm Wells of Peterborough.*

*By the end of 1979 the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors and it's newsletter, "Timber Talk" was celebrating a very successful Fifth Anniversary.*

*Although the newsletter was all business in early 1980 by the summer it was reported that Canada now had a wooden money manufacturer named, "Deluney's Wooden Nickel Company" owned and operated by Jim Deluney of Angus, Ontario.*

*Occasionally, a collector either personally or through information received comes across a wood that brings back childhood memories. That was the case for Stanley Clute who in the mid 1950's lived in Dundas, Ontario. He wrote, "as a wee lad between the ages of five and eight years, I resided in Dundas, where my father and uncle were in the course of the construction business and dealt extensively with Snetsinger Lumber Ltd." Snetsinger Lumber Ltd. issued a wooden 25 cents in 1957 (recorded in the Well's catalogue as # 5268-01) and I appeal to members to help me find one of these woods for my collection. I recall the business from my years as a boy and remember Dundas as a small town of about 10,000 inhabitants. Back in the 1820's the Leslie's were, for a brief period, partners with William Lyon Mackenzie, the rebel of 1837 in a store in Dundas and the Collins Hotel, the oldest hotel in Ontario, was located in Dundas and known for it's bar tokens that were once issued.*

*James Charlton reported to the members through Timber Talk that the "Canada Coin Exchange" wood (Catalogue # 5900-009) was distributed at his booth during the 1955 Canadian National Exhibition and out of 3000 handed out very few were redeemed for the 5 cents cash. The wood, broomstick type was made in Kitchener, Ontario by Toronto Stamp & Stencil Company.*

## ***Chips ...***

*In the winter of 1980 the Canadian Large Cent Club completed it's fifth year after being founded by Gary Littrell of Amarillo, Texas. Lewis "Scoop" Lewry of Moose Jaw became the first Canadian editor and guide of the Club's activities.*

*As 1980 came to an end, Norm Wells reported that the year "1980" was a banner year for C.A.W.M.C., what with a record number of new woods issued, membership surpassing the 200 mark, the start up of a Canadian wooden nickel company and the treasurer reporting a healthy bank balance. All was working well for the Executives and the Directors were ready for another year!*

***Now for another Tom Hudson quiz question:***

***1. Where is Rod Ardley Shell Service Station located ?***

*'Til next time ..... Let the Chips lie where they fall. Dave Gillespie*



*Answer to the Chips Quiz Question from May 2020:*

***Q: In 1968 where was the Bridge Club Christmas Party held ?***

***A: Newports, Halifax - One wooden penny # 2450-017***



### ***Update on CAWMC AGM***

Due to the cancellation of the 2020 RCNA Convention, CAWMC usual venue for conducting our AGM, your Board of Directors is now looking for an alternate way to carry on this meeting. Whichever form it takes, our members will be invited to attend. Date, time, and details of the access to the meeting will be published in a future issue of Timber Talk, and/or through mass email.

Although we are working on making the meeting accessible to all members it is possible, based on the technical awareness of each member, that we may not be able to accommodate all our members. Please note that all reports presented and approved at the AGM will be subsequently published in *Timber Talk*.

***France and Al***